

MEETING MINUTES

ACT 264 Advisory Board/Children's SPSC Joint Meeting

via Skype

April 24, 2020

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: Joanne Crawford

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Discussion Points</u>	<u>Decisions/Actions</u>
Joint ACT 264 Advisory Board & State Program Standing Committee Meeting (10:00-11:45)		
Attending: Phone/Skype: Alice Maynard, Matt Wolf, Ward Nial, Cinn Smith, Doug Norford, Cindy Tabor, Heather Freeman, Tiffany Moore, Kris Holsman-Francoeur, Ron BosLun, Teresa Sunderland Guests: Christina Thompson, Joanne Crawford, Sandi Yandow-VFFCMH, Cheryle Wilcox		
Cheryle Wilcox: IFS and COVID-19 Update	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Case Review Committee (CRC) and State Interagency Team (SIT) are both still meeting virtually but the meetings have been abbreviated. Both are still offering suggestions and feedback to families and the Local Interagency Teams (LIT). Due to the current crisis, CRC is trying to minimize movement of children. Some children did move back home from group care settings to meet current COVID-19 guidance. There has been communication around the ability to do Coordinated Service Plans (CSPs) via Zoom.2. There will likely be an increase in need for services soon due to the stress of COVID-19. The Department of Mental of Health (DMH) is ramping up communications to the public. DMH does not have a Publicity Team, so the Policy Team has added this to their duties. The team is working to get all the information out to the public and are addressing any misinformation. DMH is keeping an eye on the number of calls to the Crisis Text Line. Some of the misinformation has been regarding the increase in suicide and that Designated Agencies (DAs) are not seeing people in crisis in person. Current data shows suicide has not increased and the DAs are meeting people in person if necessary, but much is happening via telehealth.3. DMH and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP) jointly applied for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant with only seven business days to complete the grant application. Within just four business days there was a notification that the request was accepted, and Vermont was granted the maximum of two million dollars. This grant will contribute to our system of care for provision of crisis intervention services, mental and substance use disorder treatment, and other related recovery supports for children and adults impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant will allow VT to address statewide mental health and substance use COVID-19 associated needs through implementation and expansion of services and supports, and bolstering emergency services and mobile response. It will also increase access to care for healthcare workers with mental health disorders.4. Many of the DAs have seen families rising to the challenge and finding their way during this crisis. Some families have a better working relationship with providers now than they have in the past. There has been an increase in parent engagement.5. VT State Trooper Hunt and his canine Loki did a public service announcement that is currently being	

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	<p>edited and will be released soon.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Laurel Omland and Marianna Donnally have been working on Success Beyond Six funding issues. Some funding has been approved for clinicians. The required hours to draw the case rate was decreased due to changes in services such as telehealth. Laurel worked with Shannon Thompson from the DMH Business Office regarding a Behavior Interventionist case rate so they can get funding in a different way during the crisis. There have been challenges and people are worried about school budgets. Federal funding came out yesterday to help DAs. DMH has joined with emergency responders in the community to help support their mental wellness. DMH wants to ensure emergency responders are maintaining their mental health. This has led to some new connections in the community. Goddard and Woodside are no longer needed for COVID-19 patients. The four youth at Woodside were moved to a facility in St. Albans. Two of the youth were then moved to Middlesex. It is yet to be determined what will happen with Woodside. The State of Vermont currently has a hiring freeze in place. In order to hire for a position at this time a special request needs to be made. The State recognizes that there are personnel shortages and they will continue to advocate for those in need. 	
2021 System of Care Recommendations Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The group discussed how to use their knowledge of what is currently happening to create the 2021 System of Care (SOC) Recommendations. It was decided that the group would use information from the COVID-19 response teams to develop recommendations. What creative solutions are being utilized out of necessity right now that should be continued after the crisis is over? The group will not ask Commissioners and Secretaries to provide updates this year due to increased needs and demands during the pandemic. The group decided to shorten the survey to four questions that will reflect what has been working well for DAs during the COVID-19 crisis and what efforts should be continued when the crisis is over. Each group member will send one question to Alice to compile and bring to the May meeting. 	Each group member will create a question for the LIT Survey and send it to Alice to compile and bring to the May meeting.
Review March Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The group reviewed the March meeting minutes. Alice moved to accept the March Act 264 Advisory Board meeting minutes and the Act 264/SPSC joint meeting minutes. Cinn seconded the motion. Vote to approve unanimous. 	
Update for State Program Standing Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The redesignation schedule for DAs is currently being updated due to COVID-19. All DAs that have begun the redesignation process during this cycle have received a three-month extension that may be extended out further. Some responsibilities of the SPSC will need to be put on hold for now. 	
Teresa Sunderland: Transition Age Youth – Communication Barriers with Families	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Families of transition age youth are not permitted to receive updates. The group acknowledged and discussed that this is a recurring problem for families as children transition out of child services into adult services. 	
Public Comment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No public comment. 	